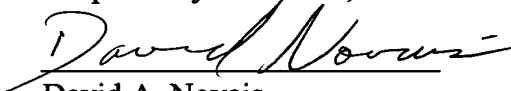## REMARKS

The above amendment to claims 15, 29 and 33 has been made to overcome the outstanding rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. More specifically, claims 15, 29 and 33 have been amended to set forth that the plurality of image obtaining devices obtain digital images from multiple customer orders. This is consistent with the language appearing in, for example, the next to last paragraph of claim 15 with respect to the digital images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of digital images may include digital images from different customer orders. Based on remarks made by the Examiner on page 7 of the Reply Brief dated November 4, 2002, it is believed that this amendment should overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

The present amendment after final does not alter the scope of the claims and, therefore, entry of this amendment after final is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Novais
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,324

DAN/ld
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2727
Facsimile: (585) 477-1148

In the Claims:

Claims 15, 29 and 33 have been amended as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A photofinishing lab for producing digital image products, the photofinishing lab comprising:

a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining digital images from[, each of said digital images being related to] multiple customer orders;

a plurality of image output devices for providing digital image products based on said obtained digital images, each of the obtained digital images being associated with identification data;

a central processing unit which receives said obtained digital images and the associated identification data, said central processing unit being adapted to analyze the obtained digital images and compare each of said obtained digital images with reference image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit being further adapted to create batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the digital images in each batch having similar identification data such that a batch of digital images may include digital images from different customer orders, said central processing unit being further adapted to determine an output sequence for each of said obtained digital images to said image output devices based on at least the associated identification data; and

a finishing arrangement which is adapted to combine the digital image products from said image output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

29. (Twice Amended) A photofininishing method for managing workflow in a photofinishing lab, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving images at the photofinishing lab, [each of] said images being [related to] received from multiple customer orders;

associating each image with identification data;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit analyzing said image with reference to image

data representative of an optimum image and creating batches of digital images from said multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

33. (Twice Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having a computer program thereon which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to manage workflow in a photofinishing lab by performing the following steps:

associating images received at the photofinishing lab with identification data, [each of] the images being [related to] received from multiple customer orders;

sending each image and its associated identification data to a processing unit, the processing unit creating batches of digital images from said multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said images to output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

providing an image product based on the image at an output device of said output devices which is appropriate for the image product; and

combining the image product from the output device with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data;

wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of image product for the image, such that the images are modified in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the image is to be sent.